

DECLASSIFIED Department of State

7/20/79

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-01 10-14 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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O R 201703Z JUL 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1600
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 5873

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/19/85 (WALLMAN, WILLIAM H.) DR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - JULY 19, 1979

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5670

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS ON JULY 19 ANNOUNCED THAT THE JUNTA IN ITS MEETING THE PREVIOUS DAY HAD DISCUSSED THE FORTHCOMING (EARLY SEPTEMBER) VISIT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ALSO JULY 19 PRESTIGIOUS "LA NACION" FEATURED ON ITS EDITORIAL PAGE A DETAILED "WHAT IS THE JACHR?" ARTICLE WITH DESCRIPTIVE BIOGRAPHIES OF THE COMMISSION'S MEMBERS. AMBASSADOR CASTRO MET WITH MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO AND ALSO TOOK UP SEVERAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN A JULY 17 INTERVIEW WITH ARMY COMMANDER VIOLA. SUBJECTS INCLUDED TIMBERMAN, RECENT REARRESTS, SARAGOVIC AND THE NEED FOR A CLEARER PRESENTATION OF PEN RELEASES AND OTHER STATISTICS THAN THOSE OFFERED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY IN HIS JUNE 29 PRESS CONFERENCE. IN CONNECTION WITH PEN STATISTICS HE LEFT A LIST OF DETAILED QUESTIONS DRAWN UP DURING THE EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS OF THE HARGUINDEGUY FIGURES. ON THE SARAGOVIC CASE THE AMBASSADOR LEFT A COPY OF THE YOUNG MAN'S MOTHER'S PETITION ASKING FOR HIS RELEASE. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH PLAZA MOTHERS -----
AMBASSADOR CASTRO MET FOR AN HOUR ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 12 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE "MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO" WHO, AS REPORTED EARLIER MUST IN FACT THESE DAYS GO ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES IN CHURCHES AND PARKS ABOUT THE CITY RATHER THAN IN THE PLAZA IN FRONT OF THE CASA ROSADA FROM WHICH THEY DREW THEIR NAME. MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE: SRA. DE PAVERO, SRA. DE AGUILAR, SRA. DE CHIDICHINO, SRA. DE BONIFINI, SRA. DE BINSTONE, SRA. DE VERA BARROS AND SRA. DE ARMENDARIZ. THE GROUP DELIVERED A LIST OF CHILDREN EITHER BORN IN JAIL (28 NAMES), WHERE THEIR MOTHERS WERE PRESUMABLY HELD, OR ABDUCTED AT THE SAME TIME AS THEIR PARENTS (4 CASES). (EMBASSY HAS ASKED FOWG FOR A STATUS REPORT CONCERNING CHILDREN AND MOTHERS FOR WHOM NO INQUIRY HAD EARLIER BEEN MADE--ALL BUT FIVE OF THE TOTAL, FOR WHOM WE ALREADY HOLD "NO RECORD" REPORTS.) AFTER THEIR VISIT WITH THE AMBASSADOR A SPECIAL SHOWING WAS ARRANGED FOR THE WOMEN OF THE COX-AROCENA "MEET THE PRESS" INTERVIEW.

3. (U) MORE PRESS COVERAGE OF SZNAIDER ET AL DISAPPEARANCE -----
THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD CARRIED AN EDITORIAL ON

JULY 14 ENTITLED "AN ACCUSING FINGER?" WHICH, REFERRING TO THE SZNAIDER ET AL DISAPPEARANCES (BUENOS AIRES 4082), WAS POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE "DIRTY WAR" OVER AND COURTS AND JUDGES BETTER ACTIVATED--INCLUDING IN THE SZNAIDER CASE--THE FACT REMAINS THAT LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS ABOUT SZNAIDER TO THE PRESIDENT AND JUNTA MEMBERS HAVE PRODUCED NO RESPONSE. THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO POINT OUT THAT SOME FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE SIX DISAPPEARED DID NOT REPORT THE MATTER TO THE POLICE, AND THAT THE MOTHER OF ONE OF THE DISAPPEARED HAD TALKED TO THE HEAD OF THE ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIDE), WHO TOLD HER TO GET AS MUCH PUBLICITY FOR THE CASE AS POSSIBLE. THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO STATE, "IT IS CLEAR THAT WE ARE FACE TO FACE WITH ANOTHER OF 'THE EXCESSES' THAT HAVE BEEN DENOUNCED REPEATEDLY BY THE PRESIDENT, THE ARMY C-IN-C, OTHER MILITARY COMMANDERS AND GOVERNMENT MINISTERS. OR PERHAPS A GRAVE MISTAKE HAS BEEN COMMITTED AND THE SIX WILL BE QUICKLY RELEASED OR WILL APPEAR UNDER LEGAL JURISDICTION TO BE CHARGED WITH SOME CRIME. WHATEVER THE EXPLANATION IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT LEAVE THIS CASE FOR JUSTICE--STILL, UNFORTUNATELY, WALKING ON CRUTCHES--TO DEAL WITH ALONE. DECISIVE ACTION IS CALLED FOR BY THE GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES THROUGH THEIR MANY SECURITY SERVICES. IT IS AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE, THEIR REPUTATIONS WHICH ARE AT STAKE."

4. (U) MAR DEL PLATA BAR ASSOCIATION ISSUES COMMUNIQUE -----
THE MAR DEL PLATA CITY BAR ASSOCIATION HAS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE JULY 18 SAYING THAT IT WILL CONTINUE DOING EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO FIND THREE MISSING LAWYERS TAKEN FROM THEIR HOMES IN 1977. THE MISSING LAWYERS ARE: SALVADOR ARRESTIN, RAUL HUGO ALAIS AND TOMAS FRESNEDA. THEY WERE ALL ABDUCTED AT THE SAME TIME AS NORBERTO CENTENO, A LABOR LEADER WHO WAS LATER FOUND DEAD. ALAIS AND FRESNEDA ARE IN EMBASSY HR FILES.

5. (U) MORE FREED PRISONERS REARRESTED -----
SINCE REARREST OF CARLOS RAUL ARANDA (REPORTED REFTEL) FOUR OTHER PERSONS HAVE BEEN REARRESTED ACCORDING TO PRESS AND PERMANENT ASSEMBLY REPORTS: MARIO AUGUSTO ARQUEROS, JUAN CARLOS GOYA, JOSE NIVEYRO AND JORGE EDUARDO CAMPOS. ALL ARE REPORTED

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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Department of State

INCOMING
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BUENOS 05873 02 OF 02 201901Z

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BUENOS 05873 02 OF 02 201901Z

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SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 5873

TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BY AN ARMY UNIT AND REMOVED TO
RESISTENCIA, CHACO PROVINCE ALL HAD BEEN HELD
IN UNIDAD 9 LA PLATA PRISON.

THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD DENOUNCED THESE ARRESTS IN
BOTH STORIES AND AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A SINISTER
DEVELOPMENT" ON JULY 19, SAYING IN THE EDITORIAL
"UNTIL SOME JUSTIFICATION, OR AT LEAST A PLAUSIBLE
EXPLANATION OF WHY THE FOUR MEN WERE ARRESTED IS
MADE PUBLIC, THE IMPRESSION WILL REMAIN THAT
DIFFERENT UNITS OF THE SECURITY FORCES ARE ACTING
IN AN AUTONOMOUS MANNER ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT
CRITERIA IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THIS
IS CLEARLY QUITE INTOLERABLE IN FORCES THAT SHOULD
ACT IN A UNIFORM AND PREDICTABLE WAY, STRICTLY
FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY THEIR SUPERIORS
IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. IF THE REARRESTS CAN BE
JUSTIFIED BY ANYTHING THE FOUR MEN SAID OR DID--OR
ARE SUSPECTED OF HAVING SAID OR DID--SINCE THEY
LEFT LA PLATA, THEN THIS SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR."
THE EDITORIAL ENDS BY SAYING THAT IF THE AUTHORITIES
IN CHACO REGARDED THEM AS A THREAT TO THE COMMUNITY
IN SOME WAY, THEY SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN RELEASED.
NEVERTHELESS, SOME EXPLANATION HAS TO BE FORTHCOMING.

*Re-
ARRESTS*

6. ACCUSATIONS OF "SECRET DETENTION CENTERS" -----

"LA NACION" CARRIED AN ADVERTISEMENT ON JULY 14
PLACED BY "MOTHERS OF DISAPPEARERS-DETAINEES"
MADRES DE DETENIDOS-DESAPARECIDOS ENTITLED
"WHERE ARE OUR SONS?" THE PAID ADVERTISEMENT
STARTS WITH A STATEMENT THAT THE INTERIOR MINISTER
HAS SAID THAT THERE EXISTS A LIST OF DISAPPEARED,
WHICH LIST THE GOVERNMENT IS ANALYZING WHETHER OR
NOT TO PUBLICIZE, AND GOES ON TO ASSERT THAT THERE
ARE SECRET PLACES OF DETENTION, USED IN PART FOR
REHABILITATION OF PERSONS WHO HAVE VOLUNTARILY
ENTERED THERE. THE AD ASKS WHY THE

*Secret
CAMPS*

LIST IS NOT PUBLISHED AND FAMILIES INFORMED WHERE
EACH OF THESE DETAINEES IS TO BE FOUND--OR WHY
AREN'T FAMILIES PRIVATELY INFORMED THAT THE DETAINEES
CAN BE FOUND IN "SECRET REHABILITATION CENTERS"?

7. (U) AMNESTY AUSTRIA CALLS FOR THE RELEASE OF TWO JOURNALISTS -----

"LA PRENSA" CARRIED A VIENNA DATED STORY ON
JULY 16 NOTING THE INCLUSION OF TWO ARGENTINE
JOURNALISTS, MARIO PAOLETTI AND GUILLERMO ALFIERI,
IN THEIR LIST OF "PRISONERS OF THE MONTH", AND
CALLING FOR THEIR RELEASE. AMNESTY CALLS THEIR
CONFINEMENT UNJUST IN THAT BOTH JOURNALISTS WERE
EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO FREE EXPRESSION WITHOUT

DEFENDING OR MAKING USE OF VIOLENCE. PAOLETTI IS
CURRENTLY BEING HELD UNDER PREVENTIVE DETENTION IN
LA PLATA PRISON AND ALFIERI IN LA RIOJA. BOTH
JOURNALISTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE EMBASSY HUMAN
RIGHTS FILES.

8. (U) LATIN AMERICAN PENAL CODE -----

THE EDITORIAL COMMISSION OF A STANDARD PENAL CODE
FOR LATIN AMERICA WILL BE MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES
FROM JULY 23 UNTIL AUGUST 1, 1979. THE COMMISSION,
INAUGURATED IN 1963, IS MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN ARGENTINA.

9. (U) DR. HECTOR HIDALGO SOLA, DIPLOMAT -----

THE WIFE AND CHILDREN OF DR. HECTOR HIDALGO SOLA,
FORMER ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA PLACED A
PAID ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE MAIN BUENOS AIRES NEWS-
PAPERS ON JULY 18 (THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF HIS
DISAPPEARANCE IN 1977) ASKING FOR THE RETURN OF
THEIR HUSBAND/FATHER. THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD
CARRIED THE AD AS PART OF A STORY IN WHICH IS
REPORTED THAT THE "FAMILY OF ... DR. HIDALGO SOLA
PLACE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRIME IN THE LAP
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES..." IN A PAID
ANNOUNCEMENT ... (THE WIFE AND CHILDREN) SAY OUTRIGHT
THAT HIDALGO SOLA WAS NOT KIDNAPPED BY COMMON
CRIMINALS AND HIS ABDUCTION HAS NOT BEEN CLAIMED
AS THE WORK OF EITHER LEFT OR RIGHTWING SUBVERSIVE
GROUPS.... THE FAMILY APPEALS FOR AN IN-DEPTH
INVESTIGATION." ANNOUNCEMENTS HAVE PREVIOUSLY
APPEARED ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE
AND CHRISTMAS OF 1978. BY RECENT DECREE OF THE
GOVERNMENT, HIDALGO SOLA CEASED TO BE AN AMBASSADOR
AS FROM NOVEMBER 1977.

10. (U) "PARTLY ACQUITTED" BUT STILL IN JAIL -----

"LA NACION" ON JULY 13 REPORTED THAT DR. MARIO
ARNALDO USABIAGA, AN EX-INSTRUCTOR AT THE NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH IN BAHIA BLANCA HAS BEEN
PARTIALLY AND PROVISIONALLY CLEARED OF CHARGES OF
IDEOLOGICAL SUBVERSION ARISING FROM HIS TEACHINGS
AT THAT UNIVERSITY. EMBASSY FILES INDICATE THAT
HE WAS ARRESTED JULY 20, 1976, PLACED ON PEN
AUGUST 12, 1976, THEN REMOVED FROM PEN STATUS ON
JANUARY 28, 1979 AND IS PRESENTLY IN UNIDAD 9 AT
LA PLATA PRISON. THE JUDGE IN THE CASE, DR. JORGE
FRANCISCO SUTER, HAS SO FAR FOUND THAT THE "CHARGES
ESTABLISHED BY WITNESSES ALLEGING THE IDEOLOGICAL
SUBVERSION REALLY DO NOT SHOW THAT USABIAGA,
DURING THE EXERCISE OF HIS ROLE AS PROFESSOR,
COMMITTED POLITICAL PROSELYTIZATION NEITHER INTENDED
TO DISSEMINATE IDEOLOGIES OF SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS
NOR INDOCTRINATE STUDENTS IN THE MANNER POSTULATED."

*AFTER
3
YEARS
IN
JAIL!*

11. (U) PRISON REGULATIONS -----

WE RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS A TEXT
IN ENGLISH OF NEW PRISON TREATMENT REGULATIONS SIGNED
BY THE PRESIDENT APRIL 4, 1979. NOTE: COPIES POUNCHED
HA/FLOOD AND ARA/ECA JULY 19.)
CASTRO

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